



Maywood, New Jersey, Site

FACT SHEET

*This fact sheet provides information about the Maywood, New Jersey, Site.
This site is currently managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
but will eventually transfer to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.*

Site Description and History

The Maywood, New Jersey, Site (formerly the Maywood Interim Storage Site) is located in Bergen County in northeastern New Jersey in the boroughs of Maywood and Lodi and the Township of Rochelle Park, approximately 13 miles northeast of Newark. The site is composed of the former Maywood Interim Storage Site and various vicinity properties, including the Stepan Company property and 88 residential, commercial, and government properties. Many of these properties have been remediated or are scheduled for remediation under an ongoing Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) non-time-critical removal action.

From 1916 to 1959, rare earth metals and thorium were processed at the Maywood Chemical Works, resulting in contamination of the properties. The primary contaminant at the site is thorium-232, which originated from extraction processes involving monazite sands; radium and uranium are also present in soils above site-specific cleanup levels. The extraction of thorium was discontinued in 1959 when the property was sold to the Stepan Company, a pharmaceutical manufacturer. From 1963 to 1968, under license from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Stepan removed thorium wastes from properties adjacent to nearby State Route 17 and buried the wastes on the Stepan property.

Radiological surveys at the site and at nearby properties (known as vicinity properties) performed from 1980 through 1983 identified radioactive materials at levels above state and federal guidelines. The site was added to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Priorities List in 1983, and in 1984, Congress assigned the site to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). DOE then placed the site in its Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). In 1985, the federal government acquired an 11.7-acre portion of the Stepan property to store soils and debris excavated from the vicinity properties until a suitable and permanent storage site became available. During the initial residential cleanups, approximately 35,000 cubic



Location of the Maywood, New Jersey, Site

yards of soil were excavated and brought to the site. No licensed disposal site existed at the time for this type of material, and further cleanups and stockpiling of wastes were halted in 1986 when area residents and officials opposed these activities. In 1994, after a remedial investigation and a baseline risk assessment were completed, cleanup resumed with the shipment of 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil to a licensed disposal facility in Clive, Utah. Removal of contaminated material was completed in 1996, and a total of 13 properties were cleaned up that same year; 3 more were cleaned up in 1997.

In addition to soil contamination, site characterization studies conducted between 1997 and 2007 have identified contaminants in surface water, ground water, and sediments on the site properties. Contaminants include radionuclides, volatile organic compounds, and metals.

Regulatory Setting

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor agency to DOE, established FUSRAP in March 1974 to evaluate radioactive contamination at sites where work was performed to develop the nation's nuclear weapons and early atomic energy program. After reviewing records and radiometric surveys for more than 600 sites connected with the nuclear weapons program, DOE identified 46 sites that required cleanup, including the Maywood Site. Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1997. DOE retains responsibility for long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated FUSRAP sites.

A Federal Facilities Agreement between DOE and EPA defined the steps, responsibilities, and schedule for cleanup activities at the Maywood Site. Activities at the site are being performed through a combination of remedial investigation/feasibility studies and engineering evaluation/cost analyses.

Specific cleanup goals for radionuclides in soils at the Maywood Site vicinity properties are defined in a September 2003 Record of Decision between USACE and EPA Region 2, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Future Records of Decision will address ground water contamination and nonradiological contamination at the site properties.

Current Site Conditions

USACE has completed remediation on all residential and municipal properties that are part of the Maywood Site and is currently addressing the remaining commercial and government-owned site properties. Current activities at the site include continued subsurface characterization of soil and ground water. Cleanup at all Maywood Site properties is expected to be completed by 2012.

Long-term surveillance and maintenance requirements will be determined once final site conditions are known. Responsibility for the Maywood Site will transfer from USACE to the DOE Office of Legacy Management when remedial action is complete.

Additional Information

Documents related to the Maywood Site and links to additional information about the site are available at <http://www.LM.doe.gov/land/sites/nj/maywood/maywood.htm> and <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/prjlinks/fusrap/index.htm>.

For more information about DOE Legacy Management activities at the Maywood Site, contact

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